

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/052,167

Examiner

Thomas J. Lett

Applicant(s)

EVANS ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 18 May 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Thomas Lett
Art Unit 2625

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

1. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney on Daniel Dawes on 22 June 2006.
2. The application has been amended as follows:

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An asynchronous print tracking system on a computer network including a plurality of client computers and a server, the asynchronous print tracking system for recouping costs for performance of a print job at a first time, comprising:

a message queue module on the server, wherein said message queue is formatted to comprise a plurality of records, and wherein each of the records comprise data pertaining to a plurality of print jobs submitted from the plurality of client computers;

an unbilled print alert module resident on at least one of the plurality of client computers for automatically generating a message of unbilled print cost data on the corresponding client computer when cost recoupment data is required by the server from the corresponding client computer at a later second time temporally independent from or not synchronous the first time when the print job was performed; and

a workstation monitor module resident on the one of the plurality of client computers on which the unbilled print alert module is resident and in communication across the network with said message queue module and with said unbilled print alert module, wherein said workstation monitor module comprises means for transmitting a message to said unbilled print alert module if said message queue module contains a record pertaining to a print job submitted from the corresponding client computer.

2. (currently amended) The asynchronous print tracking system of claim 1, wherein said unbilled print alert module generates the message of unbilled print cost data as an icon or a textual message that appears on a computer screen associated with the client computer at the later second time.

3. (previously presented) The asynchronous print tracking system of claim 1, further comprising a print job monitor in communication with the client computer, wherein said print job monitor comprises means for monitoring the client computer for the submission of a print job from the client computer and to create a record pertaining to the print job submitted from the client computer.

4. (previously presented) The asynchronous print tracking system of claim 3, further comprising a billing dialogue module, wherein said billing dialogue module comprises means for receiving qualification data from the client computer.

5. (previously presented) The asynchronous print tracking system of claim 4, wherein said billing dialogue module comprises a graphical user interface.

Art Unit: 2625

6. (currently amended) The asynchronous print tracking system of claim 4, further comprising a manager's module, wherein said manager's module comprises means for setting a maximum unbilled print job number.

7. (currently amended) The asynchronous print tracking system of claim 4, wherein said billing dialogue module further comprises means for forcing qualification data to be entered from the corresponding client computer before proceeding, when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the corresponding client computer exceeds a maximum unbilled print job number.

8. (currently amended) The asynchronous print tracking system of claim 7, wherein the client computer includes a screen and where said billing dialogue module further comprises means for irremovably obscuring the screen of the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the corresponding client computer exceeds the maximum unbilled print job number until qualification data is entered through the billing dialogue module.

3. Claims 9-34 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer.

Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-8 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 of the instant application is allowed for the reasons pointed out by Applicant's remarks (page 15 – page 21, line 2).

It follows that claims 2-8 are allowable as they depend from an allowable base claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TJL



KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER